



# U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

## STANDARD REVIEW PLAN

### 3.3.2 TORNADO LOADS

#### REVIEW RESPONSIBILITIES

**Primary -** Organization responsible for structural analysis reviews

**Secondary -** None

#### I. AREAS OF REVIEW

The following areas are related to the design of structures that must withstand the effects of the specified design-basis tornado for the plant. These areas are reviewed to ensure conformance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion (GDC) 2.

The specific areas of review are as follows:

1. The design parameters applicable to the tornado, including the tornado wind translational and rotational speeds; the tornado-generated atmospheric pressure change; and the spectrum of tornado-generated missiles, including their characteristics, from the standpoint of use in defining the input parameters for the structural design criteria appropriate to account for tornado loads.
2. The procedures that are used to transform tornado parameters into effective loads on structures, including the following:
  - A. The transformation of tornado wind into equivalent loads applied to structures, taking into consideration the geometrical configuration and physical

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#### USNRC STANDARD REVIEW PLAN

This Standard Review Plan, NUREG-0800, has been prepared to establish criteria that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff responsible for the review of applications to construct and operate nuclear power plants intends to use in evaluating whether an applicant/licensee meets the NRC's regulations. The Standard Review Plan is not a substitute for the NRC's regulations, and compliance with it is not required. However, an applicant is required to identify differences between the design features, analytical techniques, and procedural measures proposed for its facility and the SRP acceptance criteria and evaluate how the proposed alternatives to the SRP acceptance criteria provide an acceptable method of complying with the NRC regulations.

The standard review plan sections are numbered in accordance with corresponding sections in Regulatory Guide 1.70, "Standard Format and Content of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants (LWR Edition)." Not all sections of Regulatory Guide 1.70 have a corresponding review plan section. The SRP sections applicable to a combined license application for a new light-water reactor (LWR) are based on Regulatory Guide 1.206, "Combined License Applications for Nuclear Power Plants (LWR Edition)."

These documents are made available to the public as part of the NRC's policy to inform the nuclear industry and the general public of regulatory procedures and policies. Individual sections of NUREG-0800 will be revised periodically, as appropriate, to accommodate comments and to reflect new information and experience. Comments may be submitted electronically by email to [NRR\\_SRP@nrc.gov](mailto:NRR_SRP@nrc.gov).

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characteristics of the structures and the distribution of tornado wind pressure on structures.

- B. The transformation of tornado-generated atmospheric pressure changes into applied loads on structures.
- C. The transformation of tornado-generated missiles, which are impactive dynamic loads, into equivalent loads on structures.
- D. The combination of the above individual loads in a manner that will produce the most adverse total tornado effect on structures.
- 3. The information provided to demonstrate that failure of any structure or component not designed for tornado loads will not affect the capability of other structures or components to perform necessary safety functions.
- 4. Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC). For design certification (DC) and combined license (COL) reviews, the staff reviews the applicant's proposed ITAAC associated with the structures, systems, and components (SSCs) related to this SRP section in accordance with SRP Section 14.3, "Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria." The staff recognizes that the review of ITAAC cannot be completed until after the rest of this portion of the application has been reviewed against acceptance criteria contained in this SRP section. Furthermore, the staff reviews the ITAAC to ensure that all SSCs in this area of review are identified and addressed as appropriate in accordance with SRP Section 14.3.
- 5. COL Action Items and Certification Requirements and Restrictions. For a DC application, the review will also address COL action items and requirements and restrictions (e.g., interface requirements and site parameters).

For a COL application referencing a DC, a COL applicant must address COL action items (referred to as COL license information in certain DCs) included in the referenced DC. Additionally, a COL applicant must address requirements and restrictions (e.g., interface requirements and site parameters) included in the referenced DC.

#### Review Interfaces

Other SRP sections interface with this section as follows.

- 1. The adequacy of the most severe regional and local meteorological data used to specify design tornado load parameters for SSCs that may be affected by weather phenomena is reviewed in accordance with SRP Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2.
- 2. The adequacy of the design-basis tornado-generated missile spectrum is reviewed in accordance with SRP Section 3.5.1.4.

The specific acceptance criteria and review procedures are contained in the reference SRP sections.

The adequacy of procedures used to determine tornado-generated atmospheric pressure change effects on partially enclosed structures are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

## II. ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

### Requirements

Acceptance criteria are based on meeting the relevant requirements of the following Commission regulations:

1. 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, GDC 2 requires that SSCs important to safety shall be designed to withstand the effects of natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, and seiches without loss of capability to perform their safety functions as it relates to natural phenomena. The design bases for these SSCs shall reflect appropriate combinations of the effects of normal and accident conditions with the effects of the natural phenomena.
2. 10 CFR 52.47(b)(1), which requires that a DC application contain the proposed inspections, tests, analyses, and acceptance criteria (ITAAC) that are necessary and sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that, if the inspections, tests, and analyses are performed and the acceptance criteria met, a plant that incorporates the design certification is built and will operate in accordance with the design certification, the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, and the NRC's regulations;
3. 10 CFR 52.80(a), which requires that a COL application contain the proposed inspections, tests, and analyses, including those applicable to emergency planning, that the licensee shall perform, and the acceptance criteria that are necessary and sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that, if the inspections, tests, and analyses are performed and the acceptance criteria met, the facility has been constructed and will operate in conformity with the combined license, the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, and the NRC's regulations.

### SRP Acceptance Criteria

Specific SRP acceptance criteria acceptable to meet the relevant requirements of the NRC's regulations identified above are as follows for the review described in this SRP section. The SRP is not a substitute for the NRC's regulations, and compliance with it is not required. However, an applicant is required to identify differences between the design features, analytical techniques, and procedural measures proposed for its facility and the SRP acceptance criteria and evaluate how the proposed alternatives to the SRP acceptance criteria provide acceptable methods of compliance with the NRC regulations.

1. The tornado wind and associated missiles generated by the tornado wind used in the design shall be the most severe wind that has been historically reported for the site and surrounding area with sufficient margin for the limited accuracy, quantity, and period of time in which historical data have been accumulated.
2. The acceptance criteria for tornado parameters including maximum wind speed, translational speed, rotational speed, and atmospheric pressure change, and the bases for determining these parameters are defined in SRP Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. Acceptance criteria for the spectrum of tornado-generated missiles and their characteristics, as well as the bases for determining these parameters, are defined in SRP Section 3.5.1.4. These parameters should serve as basic input to the review and evaluation for structural design.
3. The acceptance criteria for procedures used to transform tornado parameters into equivalent loads on structures are as follows:

A. Tornado Characteristics and Effects

Tornados are characterized, in Table 1 of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.76 for the contiguous United States into three geographical regions and by (1) maximum wind speed, (2) translational speed, (3) maximum rotational speed, (4) radius of maximum rotational speed, (5) pressure drop, and (6) rate of pressure drop for each of the three regions. Tornado effects are subdivided into three groups:

- i. Tornado wind effects caused by the direct action of air flow on structures,
- ii. Atmospheric pressure change effects caused by the differential pressure between the interior and exterior of a structure during the passage of a tornado, and
- iii. Tornado-generated missile impact effects.

Tornado effects considered in design should include combinations of tornado wind effects, atmospheric pressure change effects, and tornado-generated missile impact effects.

B. Tornado Wind Effects

Procedures delineated in American Society of Civil Engineers/ Structural Engineering Institute (ASCE/SEI) 7-05, "Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures" are acceptable for transforming tornado wind speed into pressure-induced forces applied to structures. In particular, the following shall apply:

- i. The maximum velocity pressure,  $q_z$ , should be based on the applicable maximum tornado wind speed,  $V$ , using the following equation from ASCE/SEI 7-05, Section 6.5.10:

$$q_z = 0.00256 K_z K_{dt} K_d V^2 I \text{ (lb/ft}^2\text{)}$$

where:

$K_z$  = velocity pressure exposure coefficient equal to 0.87

$K_{dt}$  = topographic factor equal to 1.0

$K_d$  = wind directionality factor equal to 1.0

$V$  = maximum tornado wind speed (mi/h)

$I$  = importance factor equal to 1.15

The maximum tornado wind speed,  $V$ , is the resultant of the maximum rotational speed and the translational speed of the tornado.

- ii. Wind speed is assumed not to vary with the height above ground.
- iii. Design tornado wind loads should be determined in accordance with the following sections in ASCE/SEI 7-05, as applicable.
  - (1) 6.5.12 Design Loads on Enclosed and Partially Enclosed Buildings
  - (2) 6.5.13 Design Wind Loads on Open Buildings with Monoslope, Pitched, or Troughed Roofs
  - (3) 6.5.14 Design Wind Loads on Solid Freestanding Walls and Solid Signs
  - (4) 6.5.15 Design Wind Loads on Other Structures

C. Atmospheric Pressure Change Effects

RG 1.76 provides guidance for determining the pressure drop and the rate of pressure drop caused by the passage of a tornado. "Wind Effects on Structures: Fundamentals and Applications to Design," (Third Edition, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1996.) by E. Simiu and R. H. Scanlan, provides methods for determining loads on structures due to atmospheric pressure changes during the passage of a tornado.

For a structure that is completely open subjected to a tornado, the internal and external pressures on the structure equalize rapidly during the passage of the tornado. Therefore, the atmospheric pressure change between the interior and the exterior of that structure approaches zero.

For a structure that is enclosed (unvented structure), the internal pressure remains equal to the atmospheric pressure before the passage of a tornado. The atmospheric pressure outside the structure changes during the passage of a tornado, which creates pressure differences between the interior and the exterior of that structure, and these differential pressures produce outward acting loads on the roof and walls of the enclosed structure.

For a structure that is partially enclosed (vented structure), the determination of loads on the structure due to atmospheric pressure changes during the passage of a tornado is more complicated. If venting is adopted as a way to reduce the atmospheric pressure change effect on a structure, the review will be performed on a case-by-case basis.

D. Tornado-Generated Missile Impact Effects

Tornado-generated missile characteristics and the design-basis tornado missile spectrum are provided in RG 1.76. The acceptance criteria for transforming tornado-generated missile impact into equivalent static loads on structures are delineated in SRP Section 3.5.3, subsection II.

E. Combined Tornado Effects

After tornado-generated wind effects,  $W_w$ , atmospheric pressure change effects,  $W_p$ , and missile impact effects,  $W_m$ , are determined, the combination thereof should then be established in a conservative manner for structures. An acceptable method of combining these effects and establishing the total tornado load on a structure is as follows:

$$W_t = W_p \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

$$W_t = W_w + 0.5 W_p + W_m \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

where:

$W_t$  = total tornado load

$W_w$  = load from tornado wind effect

$W_p$  = load from tornado atmospheric pressure change effect

$W_m$  = load from tornado missile impact effect

4. The information provided to demonstrate that failure of any structure or component not designed for tornado loads will not affect the capability of other SSCs to perform necessary safety functions, is acceptable if found in accordance with either of the following:
  - A. The postulated failure or collapse of structures and components not designed for tornado loads, including missiles, can be shown not to result in any structural or other damage to safety-related structures, systems, or components.
  - B. Safety-related structures are designed to resist the effects of the postulated structural failure, collapse, or generation of missiles from structures and components not designed for tornado loads.

Technical Rationale

The technical rationale for application of these acceptance criteria to the areas of review addressed by this SRP section is discussed in the following paragraphs:

1. Compliance with GDC 2 requires that nuclear power plant SSCs and important to safety shall be designed to withstand the effects of natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, and seiches without loss of capability to perform their intended safety functions.
2. The acceptance criteria outlined above include references to industry standards and data for evaluating tornado loads on structures. These standards and data have been reviewed by the staff and found to be acceptable.
3. Meeting the requirements of GDC 2 provides assurance that and SSCs important to safety and subject to tornado effects will be designed to withstand the most severe tornado loads without loss of capability to perform their intended safety functions.

### III. REVIEW PROCEDURES

The reviewer will select material from the procedures described below, as may be appropriate for a particular case.

These review procedures are based on the identified SRP acceptance criteria. For deviations from these acceptance criteria, the staff should review the applicant's evaluation of how the proposed alternatives provide an acceptable method of complying with the relevant NRC requirements identified in Subsection II.

1. Site-related parameters described in Review Interfaces, subsection 1, are reviewed in accordance with SRP Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. The spectrum and characteristics of tornado missiles described in Review Interfaces, subsection 2, are reviewed in accordance with SRP Section 3.5.1.4. Atmospheric pressure change effects for partially enclosed structures described in Review Interfaces, are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
2. After the acceptability of the site-related parameters is established, the reviewer proceeds to review the structural aspects of tornado design in the following manner:
  - A. The procedures used by the applicant to transform tornado wind effects into design loads for structures are reviewed and compared with the procedures delineated in ASCE/SEI 7-05 and, in particular, with the acceptance criteria delineated in this SRP Acceptance Criteria, subsection 3.B.
  - B. The procedures used by the applicant to transform atmospheric pressure change effects into design loads for open and enclosed structures are reviewed and compared with the procedures described in this SRP Acceptance Criteria, subsection 3.C. The procedures used by the applicant to transform tornado-generated atmospheric pressure change effects into loads for partially enclosed structures are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
  - C. The review procedures for missiles generated by tornadoes are described in SRP Section 3.5.1.4. The review procedures for design of missile barriers are described in SRP Section 3.5.3.
3. The information provided to demonstrate that failure of any structure or component not designed for tornado loads will not affect the capability of other SSCs to perform necessary safety functions is reviewed.
4. For review of a DC application, the reviewer should follow the above procedures to verify that the design, including requirements and restrictions (e.g., interface requirements and site parameters), set forth in the final safety analysis report (FSAR) meets the acceptance criteria. DCs have referred to the FSAR as the design control document (DCD). The reviewer should also consider the appropriateness of identified COL action items. The reviewer may identify additional COL action items; however, to ensure these COL action items are addressed during a COL application, they should be added to the DC FSAR.

For review of a COL application, the scope of the review is dependent on whether the COL applicant references a DC, an early site permit (ESP) or other NRC approvals (e.g., manufacturing license, site suitability report or topical report).

For review of both DC and COL applications, SRP Section 14.3 should be followed for the review of ITAAC. The review of ITAAC cannot be completed until after the completion of this section.

#### IV. EVALUATION FINDINGS

The reviewer verifies that the applicant has provided sufficient information and that the review and calculations (if applicable) support conclusions of the following type to be included in the staff's safety evaluation report. The reviewer also states the bases for those conclusions.

The applicant has met the requirements of GDC 2 with respect to the capability of structures to withstand design-basis tornado wind effects, tornado-generated atmospheric pressure change effects, and tornado-generated missile impact effects so that their design reflects:

1. Appropriate consideration for the most severe tornado recorded for the site with an appropriate margin;
2. Appropriate combinations of the effects of normal and accident conditions with the effects of the natural phenomena; and
3. The importance of the safety function to be performed.

The applicant has designed the plant structures with sufficient margin to prevent structural damage during the most severe tornado loadings that have been determined appropriate for the site so that the requirements in item 1 listed above are met. In addition, the design of seismic Category I structures, as required in item 2 listed above, has included load combinations of the most severe tornado load and the loads resulting from normal and accident conditions.

The procedures used to determine the loadings on structures induced by the design-basis tornado specified for the plant are acceptable because these procedures have been used in the design of conventional structures and proven to provide a conservative basis which together with other engineering design considerations ensures that the structures can withstand such environmental forces.

The use of these procedures provides reasonable assurance that in the event of a design-basis tornado, the structural integrity of the plant structures that have to be designed for tornadoes will not be impaired and, in consequence, safety-related systems and components located within these structures will be adequately protected and may be expected to perform necessary safety functions as required, thus satisfying the requirement in item 3 listed above.

For DC and COL reviews, the findings will also summarize the staff's evaluation of requirements and restrictions (e.g., interface requirements and site parameters) and COL action items relevant to this SRP section.

In addition, to the extent that the review is not discussed in other SER sections, the findings will summarize the staff's evaluation of the ITAAC, including design acceptance criteria, as applicable.

## V. IMPLEMENTATION

The staff will use this SRP section in performing safety evaluations of DC applications and license applications submitted by applicants pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50 or 10 CFR Part 52. Except when the applicant proposes an acceptable alternative method for complying with specified portions of the Commission's regulations, the staff will use the method described herein to evaluate conformance with Commission regulations.

The provisions of this SRP section apply to reviews of applications submitted six months or more after the date of issuance of this SRP section, unless superseded by a later revision.

## VI. REFERENCES

1. 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion 2, "Design Bases for Protection Against Natural Phenomena."
2. American Society of Civil Engineers/Structural Engineering Institute. *Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures*. ASCE/SEI 7-05. American Society of Civil Engineers, Reston, Virginia, 2006.
3. E. Simiu and R. H. Scanlan, "Wind Effects on Structures: Fundamentals and Applications to Design," John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York. Third Edition. 1996.
4. Regulatory Guide 1.76, Revision 1, "Design-Basis Tornado and Tornado Missiles for Nuclear Power Plants," March 2007.

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### PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

The information collections contained in the Standard Review Plan are covered by the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 and 10 CFR Part 52, and were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0011 and 3150-0151.

### PUBLIC PROTECTION NOTIFICATION

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